

Walking Tall in Times of Injustice

Embrace Discipline

Discipline comes in many forms and sizes, but let's be completely honest ... if we had a choice, we'd avoid all of it completely. We're repeatedly reminded that self-discipline is not just a virtue, it's part of the whole "be a Christian" package – which can be problematic in times of injustice. We rail against injustice and there's a side of us that wants to just wade in there and administer a bit of it ourselves. But as we watch the news channels, it's pretty clear there's enough of that going on for all of us, but it doesn't change our most visceral responses. Christians are expected to be more self-disciplined than the rest of the world – and David gave us a vision of what that might look like.

1 Samuel 30

1. David demonstrated two types of discipline: Discipline of the _____ and discipline of the _____.
2. David had the discipline to _____ before making decisions.
3. Fruit of discipline brings stamina in times of _____ and in _____ as well.

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- How will you become more physically disciplined?
- How will you become more mentally disciplined?
- How will you become more spiritually disciplined?

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper

Walk Tall in Times of Injustice: Embrace Discipline

Scripture: 1 Samuel 30

Introduction: According to Paul, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control. It seems many of us really want to embrace six of the seven. Being more loving or good or kind seem like good deals. But that self-discipline one ... let's be real, that's not really a fruit – that's *work!* But when injustice is rolling like a wave across our world, committing to being disciplined will help us have the courage to stand up for what is right.

1. Read 1 Samuel 30:1–6. When David and his men discovered that Ziklag had been sacked, do you think they realized that the raiders had kept the captives alive? Why do you think their grieving was so exhausting?
2. What do you think it means that “David found strength in the Lord his God?”
3. Read 30:7–10. How do you think David developed the discipline to “inquire of the Lord” before setting out to pursue the raiders? In what areas of your life do you make inquiries of the Lord before taking action?
4. What do you think kept the 400 going? Why do you think the 200 didn't have the stamina to continue?
5. Read 30:16–25. What do you think gave David and his men the stamina to fight the Amalekites for nearly twenty-four hours? (17) What gives you the stamina and the courage to face your toughest battles?
6. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1–8. The writer points out that there is a time for peace, but also for war ... a time to be silent and a time to speak up ... a time to tear down and a time to build. Christians often believe that there is no time for war, tearing down, and so on. When do you think it's appropriate to be confrontive? How do you discern what “time” it is in your life?
7. What are you going to do today to build your self-discipline?

***Next Week: Walking Tall in Times of Injustice: Loyalty
Who will you be inviting to worship with you this week?***